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МЕЖДУНАРОДНАЯ АМНИСТИЯ
منظمة العفو الدولية
國際特赦組織

URGENT ACTION

EXTERNAL **AI Index: ASA 21/45/95**

14 September 1995

Further information on UA 216/95 (ASA 21/44/95, 11 September 1995) - Fear of Torture

EAST TIMOR **Up to 22 still detained after riots, including:**

Julio Ricardo Smith
Fernando Tilma
Antonio
Zito Valente

Up to 22 individuals are believed to still be detained in Dili as a result of rioting which began on 8 September. Amnesty International's fears that those in detention are at serious risk of beatings and torture have been heightened by reports that some have already been severely beaten.

Reports of the number of detainees continue to be conflicting. On 12 September, East Timor Police Chief Andreas Sugianto stated that the police had arrested 10 "ringleaders" responsible for the burning of a market in Dili and that out of 16 arrested earlier for their role in the demonstrations, nine had already been released. Sugianto was quoted as saying that the police were preparing to make further arrests. On the same day however, Sugianto was quoted in an Indonesian newspaper *Republika* as stating that 53 had been arrested.

Non-government sources say that up to 22 people may still be detained and that the total number arrested since 8 September may have been as high as 80. The majority of this group are high school students. Dili's Catholic Bishop, Bishop Belo was reported as saying that by 11 September, 36 had been arrested, and 12 of these had been injured as police broke up a demonstration. AI has received the names of three individuals, Julio Ricardo Smith, Fernando Tilma, and Antonio, arrested on 8 September and believed to be currently detained at the military intelligence unit (*Satuan Tugas Intelijen - SGI*) of the Sub-Regional Military Command for East Timor (KOREM 164/Wira Dharma). Zito Valente is also believed to be currently detained.

To AI's knowledge the authorities have still not provided names of those detained or precise details of the charges they will face. The organization is concerned that those in detention do not yet have access to independent lawyers, consistent with the frequent denial of access to independent legal advice for political detainees in East Timor.

At least two individuals are known to have been severely beaten by police or military in detention. One eyewitness has reported meeting an 18-year-old youth detained in Dili police custody from 8 to 12 September. The youth showed signs of severe beatings, including bruising and bleeding. Nonetheless, the authorities have denied that any of those arrested are at risk of torture. While Amnesty International understands that the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has been given access to the prisoners, there is concern that such access in the past has not always provided sufficient protection against torture. It is also not clear whether the ICRC has been able to visit all those in detention.

AI has also received the names of three individuals alleged to have been shot in Dili since 8 September. Two of the three are alleged to have died as a result. AI cannot confirm these reports.

Amnesty International, International Secretariat, 1 Easton Street, London WC1X 8DJ, United Kingdom

Tel: (44)(71) 413 5500 Fax: 956 1157 Telegrams: Amnesty London WC1 Telex: 28502 E-mail: (GeoNet) mcr1:amnesty-is, (GreenNet) amnestyis@gn.apc.org

FURTHER BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The rioting began on 6 September in Maliana, some 120km west of Dili, following local anger about government inaction over a statement made by a prison official in Maliana deemed to be insulting to the Catholic faith. On 7 September news about the issue had spread to the town of Viqueque, where trading stores belonging to Indonesian migrants were burnt down. On 8 September, demonstrations broke out in six different locations of Dili. On 9 September, the Comoro Market was burnt down, while police and military continued to attempt to disperse demonstrators in several areas around Dili. Witnesses report the use of tear gas by the authorities on both 8 and 9 September. By 10 September, the demonstrators appeared to have dispersed; however tension remained as the security forces continued with their arrests. Also on 10 September, unrest occurred again in Maliana and in Manatuto. Three individuals were also believed to have been arrested in Manatuto on 10 September, but were released shortly afterwards.

Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas has denied that the cause of the riots is East Timor's political status, but rather SARA, an Indonesian acronym for *suku* (ethnic), *agama* (religion), *ras* (race), *golongan* (social group), an expression referring to issues which could lead to conflict. Bishop Belo has stated that the cause of the riots is the failure of the Indonesian Government to address "religious and ethnic tension" in East Timor. Independent sources allege that the military have provoked the unrest by disseminating information about the statement of the prison official in Maliana.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/express/airmail letters in English or your own language:
- urging the Indonesian authorities to provide details of the whereabouts of all those detained in Dili since 8 September, as well as any specific charges that are to be brought against them;
- calling for all possible measures to be taken to ensure the safety of the detainees;
- calling on the authorities to allow continued access for those in detention to the International Committee of the Red Cross, lawyers of their own choice and their families

APPEALS TO:

CHIEF OF POLICE FOR EAST TIMOR
Lt. Col. Andreas Sugianto
Kapolda Timor Timur
Dili, East Timor (Indonesia)
Telegrams: Kapolda Timor Timur, Dili, East Timor
Salutation: Dear Lieutenant-Colonel

MILITARY COMMANDER REGION IX/UDAYANA
(covers Bali, Lombok, Nusa Tenggara and East Timor)
Brig. Gen. H A Rivai
Pangdam IX/Udayana
Markas Besar KODAM IX Udayana
Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia
Telegrams: Pangdam IX/Udayana, Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia
Salutations: Dear Brigadier-General

COPIES TO:

Minister of Foreign Affairs
Ali Alatas SH
Menteri Luar Negeri
Jl Medan Taman Pejambon No 6
Jakarta, Indonesia
Faxes: (62 21) 36 0517

and to diplomatic representatives of Indonesia accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 8 October 1995.